

REMARKS

Claims 21-22, 24-28, 30-34 and 38-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 27 is amended for clarity. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Claim 27 is objected to alleging that "the computer-readable program" recited in claim 27 is typographical error. By this Amendment, claim 27 is amended to recite "the program." The Office Action indicates that "the computer-readable program" should read "the computer-readable storage medium." However, "the computer-readable storage medium" does not "comprise instructions." Rather, the program comprises the instructions. Thus, reciting "the program" is appropriate. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 21-22, 24-28, 30-34 and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0143012 (Block) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0099442 (Payne). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants herewith submit a translation of the priority document (JP 2003-089175), which supports the subject matter of claims 21-22, 24-28, 30-34 and 38-40. The translation of the priority documents perfects Applicants' priority filing date of March 27, 2003, which is earlier than the filing date of the provisional application and the publication date of Payne, November 12, 2003 and May 12, 2005, respectively. Thus, Payne is disqualified as prior art under §§102(a)and (e). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Yamashita

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Hirotsuna Yamashita
Registration No. L0563

JAO:HQY/jnm

Attachment:

Translation of Priority Document JP 2003-089175

Date: December 31, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461